



Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

January 2010

Dear Soon-to-be Neighbor:

Welcome to Livermore. We appreciate your interest in Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) national security facility. Potential new neighbors often express interest in LLNL operations. This letter provides basic information and directs you to available resources should you wish to learn more about the environmental relationship between LLNL and the local community.

LLNL is located on approximately one square mile of land on the eastern border of the City of Livermore. In the early 1940s, the site was home to a U.S. Naval Air Station. In 1952, the Laboratory was established, first under the auspices of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and later DOE.

Off-site groundwater contamination was first detected at the Livermore Site in the early 1980s. The contamination consists primarily of solvents and degreasers, commonly referred to as volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. These VOCs were used to clean airplane engines during the site's years as a U.S. Naval Air Station. Localized spills and leaking tanks contributed to subsequent site soil and groundwater contamination after the NRC and DOE became the property owners. Groundwater, at a depth of about 70 feet, was found to be slowly carrying contaminants off-site under Vasco Road north of East Avenue. Due to the proximity of City of Livermore municipal wells, located about three miles away from the contaminated groundwater, LLNL was listed on the National Priority List for "Superfund" cleanup. Because the groundwater is deep underground, there is no potential for public exposure to these contaminants.

Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC, (<http://www.llnslc.com>) currently operates LLNL for the DOE's National Nuclear Security Administration and manages the groundwater remediation activities. The cleanup is conducted under oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board. All costs are paid by DOE. While the majority of remedial activity is directed toward cleaning up contamination at LLNL before it reaches the site boundary, remediation also includes pumping off-site groundwater for treatment to remove the contaminants. The pumping process has produced a significant reduction in contaminant strength and plume length off-site over the past decade. Again, there is no potential for public exposure.

If you would like to know more about the environmental remediation activities or any other aspect of the Laboratory's environmental protection activities, please see the LLNL Environmental Community Relations website: <https://www-envirinfo.llnl.gov>. It features a link to the *Site Annual Environmental Report*. This document is published each year and contains information about the status of LLNL compliance with all environmental laws and regulations during the prior year, including results of the extensive monitoring and analysis of water, air and vegetation samples in accordance with LLNL, DOE and regulatory agency requirements. The *Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement* is also available on this website and provides a detailed look ahead at potential environmental impacts from LLNL operations. Copies of current LLNL environmental documents also are placed in environmental repositories and are available for viewing at the Livermore Public Library and the LLNL Discovery Center off Greenville Road at the Laboratory's Eastgate Drive entrance.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please contact me at (925) 423-3125 or via e-mail at wilson101@llnl.gov with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Scott Wilson
Public Affairs Office

LLNL-MI-405383

This work performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under Contract DE-AC52-07NA27344.

